

DIVISION: FORMS I - IV

AGE GROUP: 12 yrs. plus

SERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRS

PROGRAMME: (5) 'Cyprus'

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

Do you know where the Mediterranean Sea is? Yes its^t that large sea that lies between Europe, Africa and the Western End of Asia. And there are quite a few islands *in this sea - some of them quite big like Sicily* which almost looks like if it's being kicked by the boot of Italy. - and some tiny island like Malta - the island which got the George Cross medal for bravery during the second World War.

Well at the far Eastern end of this Mediterranean Sea, tucked away under the peninsula of Turkey is the island of Cyprus. It isn't really a very big island and yet, you know, boys and girls, it's been in the news quite a lot recently. What's been going on there has caused a lot of worry to some of the big and important countries like Britain, France and the United States. Cyprus has even been talked about in the United Nations. So let's see why this island - not very rich or very powerful - tucked away at the Eastern End of the Mediterranean can cause such a stir among the bigger nations.

Let's go back a little bit to about five or six years years ago. In those days Cyprus was a British Colony - you know what that means, don't you? It was not an independent country. But quite a lot of people in Cyprus wanted to be free from British rule. But here the difficulties began. You see boys and girls, two sets of people live

/in Cyprus - the

in Cyprus - the Greeks whose ancestors came from Greece, and the Turks whose ancestors came from Turkey. And Although these two people have lived in the same island for a long time, Yet they have never really got together, Or as you might say they have never become one people. And its always very bad for a country which has different races of people - if these people do not forget that they originally came from different countries.

Well about five or six years ago the Greeks in the Island began to say that they wanted Cyprus to be free of England and united to Greece. And the man who led the Greek people in asking for this is a most interesting man. I say he is interesting because he is both a politician and a Churchman - his name is Archbishop Makarios. But what about the Turks? They weren't very happy about this at all. For one thing there are not as many Turks on the island as there are Greeks. In other words the Turks are what is called a minority. And naturally they thought that if the island was united to Greece then their voice would never be heard in anything. In fact, they felt they would be forgotten and nobody would look after their needs. So, as you would expect them to do, they said " No Union With Greece".

OPR:

M U S I C B R E A K

NARR:

Well boys and girls here was a *difficult* problem. And it became worse when the Greeks and Turks began ~~openly~~ quarrelling ^{*openly*} in the streets of the cities and the villages. Life became very unpleasant in the island. Then at last an agreement was reached - you call it a compromise - that means that each side met the other half way. And the compromise they decided on was this: ~~that~~ Cyprus would not be united to anybody. It would become an independent state in the Commonwealth.

/But then the Turk.....

But then the Turks said "Ah! but how are we going to be governed? Not in the ordinary way like other countries - surely since the Greeks are more than we ~~are~~ we have to be protected against them?" This mean, said the Turks, that we have to have the kind of Government in which those who speak for us can say 'No' to important things that the Greeks want to do. And so in the Constitution - that is, the laws which ~~the~~ say how the Government should be carried on - this Constitution gives the Turks the power to stop a lot of things the Greeks want to do, although there are more Greek voters than Turkish Voters.

There is something even stranger about this Constitution. It's kept as it is not by the people of Cyprus themselves but by Greece, Turkey and Great Britain. So that if the Cypriots want to change their constitution they really can't do that unless Britain, Greece and Turkey agree. -- What makes this very ODD boys and girls, that here you have an independent state that cannot change on its own, its system of government - some people would say that because of this it isn't really independent **at** all.

Well anyway Cyprus became Independent in 1960, and all seemed well. Then suddenly just before Christmas last year - trouble began again. Everybody was a bit surprised to hear that the Greeks and Turks were actually fighting each other. Then it got worse and now there is hardly any government in the island at all.

The Turks appealed to their brothers in Turkey to send Troops to help them. But if Turkey did this you know what else would happen don't you? Yes the Greeks in Greece would send their troops over to Cyprus. And Then Greece and Turkey would clash.

/To prevent this

To prevent this Britain sent her troops to keep order in the island. But she wants other countries to help her because if ^{else} anything goes wrong she won't like to take all the blame. But which countries? And that's the problem. At first Britain wanted her special allies to send their troops to the island to keep order there. Those allies are called the Nato countries and include Britain, *herself*, America, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey. But Archbishop Markarios has refused to have these forces. So Britain has asked the United Nations to help. You remember we said ~~that~~ last term that the United Nations often helps to keep peace in troubled countries. Here again it may help Cyprus out of its trouble. It may even send some groups of people to get the Greeks and the Turks on the island to sit down together and solve their differences.

So you see, children, how small nations can nowadays appeal to bigger nations to help them with their problems. And they can finally appeal to the United Nations which is always willing to see peace and order in the World. More and more the United Nations is coming to be used that way. So that *conflicts need not lead to war* ~~women~~ and men may settle their differences around tables rather *than in fighting lives.*

So long children until ~~next~~ Next week.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: